

## Commissioner's Weekly Wrap Up

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DCS Communications Office

**May 7, 2004**

### **This Week In Central Office**

#### Monday, May 3

Commissioner Viola Miller released Monday the nine investigative concerns identified in the internal affairs report investigating the Woodland Hills Youth Development Center attempted escape and disturbance of March 4, 2004.

The corresponding report and press release are available on the DCS [homepage](#).

#### Wednesday, May 5

- Commissioner Miller attend the grand opening of the new DCS Wilson/Trousdale County Office in Lebanon.
- At 1:00 p.m., Commissioner Miller spoke at the Foster Care Parent Appreciation event on the steps of the State Capitol Building!

[Click here](#) to view photos of Wednesday's event. And here to read the news article in Thursday's *Tennessean*.

#### Thursday, May 6

Commissioner Miller announced Thursday the appointment of Woodland Hills Youth Development Center Interim Superintendent Kathy Bell.

Click [here](#) to read the corresponding press release.

### **The Week Ahead**

#### Monday, May 10

Commissioner Miller will visit the Davidson County field staff at the old TPS campus.

Staff Contact: [Carla.aaron@state.tn.us](mailto:Carla.aaron@state.tn.us)

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## The Week Ahead Cont'd

### Wednesday, May 12

Commissioner Miller will appear on Nashville's News Channel 5 Plus (Comcast Cable Channel 55) **at 7 p.m.** to promote the DCS Foster Care Program and highlight our ever-increasing need for additional foster parents.

### Thursday, May 13

Commissioner Miller will visit with the Knox, East and North East Region field staff!

Staff Contact: [Carla.aaron@state.tn.us](mailto:Carla.aaron@state.tn.us)

### Friday, May 14

Commissioner Miller will conduct supervisory training in the West Tennessee regions.

Staff Contact: [Carla.aaron@state.tn.us](mailto:Carla.aaron@state.tn.us)



## **May is National Foster Care Month ... But where are the events?**

**Please [email us](#)** your region's foster care month activities to post on the Internet. Please be sure to include **ALL** importation details such as time, date, location and purpose. As of today, we have very few events on our calendar. Help us change that!

Check out the [DCS homepage](#) for a listing of statewide foster care month events and a copy of the corresponding press release.

Please engage your city officials, legislators, community partners and local media in this exciting month of recruitment and celebration!

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## Team Excellence Challenge Phase II

Team Excellence Phase II is underway! This is an exciting time full of new opportunities for many of you to be involved in the upcoming changes for your department. If you are interested in solving systemic problems, meeting challenges head on, and collaboratively working with others, this is your chance to move forward professionally and advance your career.

Please see the DCS employee intranet for details!

## Speaking of the employee intranet site ... Check out the new look!



The DCS Communications team last Friday revealed the new employee intranet site. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the new layout.



Also note the addition of the **“Employee X-Change”** page. This page is designed to feature you and your favorite things! Please help us fill it up with your recipes, announcements, weddings, births, retirements and favorite places by emailing [Sarah.beth.davis@state.tn.us](mailto:Sarah.beth.davis@state.tn.us). Please type the category in the subject line.

## Communications Update

Thank you for emailing us your favorite motivational and leadership quotes! Please continue sending them to [Sarah Beth Davis](mailto:Sarah.Beth.Davis@state.tn.us)!



## *From the Desk of Viola Miller: A Child's World View*

Children do not see the world the same way we do. They do not have the same sense of time we do. Children cannot even begin to see issues from the perspective of others until they reach about age seven.

As parents, we always want our children to say, "I'm sorry" if they hurt someone. I can assure you that prior to age seven, they may say it, but they don't mean it. They can't even understand the concept that they may have caused harm because they are unable to take the perspective of the other person. Everything in their little world is viewed only as it impacts them.

Take this concept and apply it to a removal. There is no way that child is capable of understanding that event in any other way than as a punishment for some wrong or "badness" that he/she has done. "I have been bad, therefore, I can't see my mother." Saying, "it is not your fault," is a waste of time because we cannot change the child's world view.

Then what can we do to make this horrible event less painful? We can assure the child that he/she is loved and cared about.

We can do everything in our power not to subject the child to any additional moves. We can make every effort to see that, if at all possible, the child sees the parents soon after removal and frequently during out of home care. We can also make every attempt to place siblings together.

We can comfort with soft words and gentle pats. We can assure that the child is placed in an environment that understands what this little person is going through . . . an environment that will constantly reinforce the child's value and her right to feel her feelings.

She has right to be angry, to cry, to be afraid. Avoiding those feelings, telling the child "its going to be okay," or telling the child to "be good" in foster care, only exacerbates the situation. We have done damage and the child has every right to react and to express her feelings. We have obligation to allow those feelings to "sit with the pain" as the child slowly heals.

**You and the work you do is so very important to the children and families of Tennessee. I want you to know how much I appreciate it each and every day.**



Realize that if you have time to whine and complain about something then you have the time to do something about it.

~ Anthony J. D'Angelo

The choices you make today will determine your tomorrow.

~Author Unknown

No matter whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right.

~Author Unknown

Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

~St. Francis of Assisi

If you wallow in the past, you will stay there.

~Ben Vereen

Live your life so that your children can tell their children that you not only stood for something - you acted on it.

~Dan Zadra

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